United Nations ST/IC/2013/16

Secretariat

17 May 2013

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **Internal Justice Council**

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform staff of the terms of reference and membership of the Internal Justice Council.

Terms of reference of the Internal Justice Council

2. In paragraph 36 of resolution 62/228 of 22 December 2007, the General Assembly decided to establish the Internal Justice Council as part of a new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the administration of justice system of the United Nations. The system, which was established as of 1 January 2009, comprises a two-tier judicial structure consisting of a first instance tribunal, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and an appellate instance tribunal, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. Pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution 62/228 and paragraph 45 of resolution 66/237, the tasks of the Internal Justice Council are to:

(a) Liaise with the Office of Human Resources Management on issues related to the search for suitable candidates for the positions of judges, including by conducting interviews as necessary;

(b) Provide its views and recommendations to the General Assembly on two or three candidates for each vacancy in the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, with due regard to geographical distribution;

(c) Draft a code of conduct for the judges, for consideration by the General Assembly;

(d) Provide its views on the implementation of the system of administration of justice to the General Assembly;

(e) Include the views of both the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal in its annual reports.

* The present circular supersedes ST/IC/2008/32 of 23 June 2008 and its amendments dated 18 January and 22 July 2011 and will be in effect until further notice.

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Composition of the Internal Justice Council

3. In paragraph 36 of resolution 62/228, the General Assembly decided that the Internal Justice Council would consist of a staff representative, a management representative and two distinguished external jurists, one nominated by the staff and one by management. The General Assembly also decided that the fifth member would be a distinguished jurist chosen by consensus by the four other members and would chair the Internal Justice Council.

4. The Secretary-General recently appointed the new representatives and the distinguished external jurists nominated by the staff and management, respectively. The members of the Council chose the Chair by consensus, who was thereupon appointed by the Secretary-General. The members have been appointed for a period of four years. The members of the Internal Justice Council are:

Ian Binnie (Canada) (Chair)
Carmen Artigas (Uruguay)
Sinha Basnayake (Sri Lanka)
Anthony Miller (Australia)
Victoria Phillips (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)